


Western Folklore is a quarterly journal published by the California Folklife Society that is devoted to international folklore scholarship. However, many articles on California folklore appear in its pages. Persons interested in subscribing can do so by contacting the Secretary-Treasurer. California Folklife Society, University of California Press, Berkeley, California, 94720. The Society also publishes a newsletter titled *From the Sourdough Crock*.

**Records**


Muskmade Mus. 103.


Kenny Hall. Philo 1008.

*Kenny Hall and the Sweets Mill String Band*. Bay 727.

**Oakland Blues. Arhoolie 2008.**


Vern and Ray. *Sounds from the Ozarks*. Old Homestead 10001.

Several of the Library of Congress Archive of American Folk Song recordings contain material collected in California, some of it indigenous and some by informants from outside the region who were taped in California. The following albums all have one or more numbers by traditional musicians from California.

American Fiddle Tunes. AAFS L62.

American Sea Songs and Shanties I. AAFS L26.

American Sea Songs and Shanties II. AAFS L27.

Anglo-American Shanties, Lyric Songs, Dance Tunes and Spirituals. AAFS L2.

Anglo-American Songs and Ballads. AAFS L12.

Anglo-American Songs and Ballads. AAFS L20.

Anglo-American Songs and Ballads. AAFS L21.

Child Ballads Traditional in the United States I. AAFS L57.

Child Ballads Traditional in the United States II. AAFS L58.

Railroad Songs and Ballads. AAFS L61.

Songs and Ballads of American History and of the Assassination of Presidents. AAFS L29.

Songs of the Mormons and Songs of the West. AAFS L30.

Versions and Variants of Barbara Allen. AAFS L54.

The children's area was created to celebrate children's folklife—those things that children teach each other and pass from one generation to the next through friends and siblings. Some of these traditions are demonstrably hundreds of years old. Some are fairly recent and are spreading voraciously.

To demonstrate children's folklore, young participants have been selected in cooperation with schools, scout troops and camps from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. Festival visitors are invited to join participants in presentations in the crafts tent, game ring, hill and sand area and around the stage.

**Crafts Tent**

Children's folklore includes aspects of material culture: not only items which are made like slingshots, dolls and paper airplanes, but also items which are collected, traded, bought or won like comics, trading cards, toys, rocks, stamps and coins and other precious possessions like records, transistor radios, bicycles, jump-ropes, balls and favorite clothes. Money is also important and children have many ways of acquiring and spending it. In the Crafts Tent participants can make cootie catchers, water bombs, airplanes; dolls from corn husks, yarn, paper, clothespins and material; carve, whittle, draw, and learn crafts from other areas of the Festival. Folk artists who specialize in drawing stories about their heroes, battles, games, and other aspects of their lives will participate.

**Games**

Games tend to predominate among children's activities. They take many
forms and are subject to seasonal use and constant change. Mable Hillary will lead visitors in ring games, superstitions, stories and other aspects of Black culture. Stu Jamieson will be teaching Southern "play party" games involving dance sets and circles, typical of the rural south. Paul Ofori-Ansah, a Ghanaian participant will teach traditional games of Ghana. Iroquois children will share their games. Tree house activities, ball games, Hide and Seek, Kick the Can, Red Rover, Tag and Mother May I will be played in the game ring.

**Stage**

On the children's stage, children will demonstrate jump rope rhymes, ring games, clap games, drumming, dancing, singing, play parties, cheer leading and sparring.

Children's lore, like games, takes many forms and serves many purposes. Children pass on superstitions, cures, ways of divining, game rhymes, TV and movie plots, songs, parodies, gossip, secrets and humor. Assisted by specialists in children's folklore from the University of Texas, participants in the Folk Swap Tent will tell elephant jokes, "knock-knocks," "mother-mothers," moral stories, parodies, riddles, secret languages, tongue twisters, ghost stories, and other special areas of lore. One of the participants from Washington, D.C., known among his peers as an electrifying storyteller, will demonstrate his art.

No children's folklore area would be accurate if it did not reflect the reality that children's folklore is not all sweetness and light. Children have feared and forbidden places, a caste system, secrets and taboos. Two distinct areas are disapproved of by adults. First, there is the folklore that turns classrooms into battle grounds: stealing, making weapons and toys; unauthorized reading such as notes, comic books, slam-books; harassing substitutes. Second, there is the folklore of taboos, a large repertoire of gross jokes, riddles, stories, ranking, toasts and dozens; games like "doctor" and the activities of courting which explore, detail and celebrate the taboos of our society. In the Folk Swap tent parents, teachers and children can discuss their concerns about disapproved behavior.

The children's area is not for babysitting but rather a place where adults may learn from children and where children may have a good time.

**Books**


**Films**


**Records**


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**Participants**

**Children's Folklore Groups:**

- Barrie Camp
- Bells Mill Elementary School
- Brent Elementary School
- Brightwood Elementary School
- Burgundy Farm Country Day Camp
- Camp Meadowbrook
- Canterbury School
- Center Branch YMCA
- Edmonds Elementary School
- Friendship House
- Frost Junior High School
- Girl Scouts—Port Byron, Illinois
- Girl Scouts—Roseville, Michigan
- Girl Scouts—Troop 1466
- Green Acres Camp
- Hardy Elementary School
- Knoxville, Tennessee County Schools
- Lafayette Recreation Center
- Landon Camp for Boys
- Metropolitan Police Boys Clubs
- Metropolitan Police Girls Club
- Parkland Junior High School
- Piney Branch Middle School
- Ross Elementary School
- Sligo Junior High School
- Takoma Elementary School
- Travillah Elementary School
- Valley Mill Camp
- Watkins Elementary School

**Individuals:**

- Helen Englar: *Quilter*
- Stu Jamieson: *Folklorist*
- Bessie Jones: *Folklorist*
- Vanessa Jones: *Folklorist*
- Paul Ofori-Ansah: *Folklorist*
- Claude Voder: *Whittler*